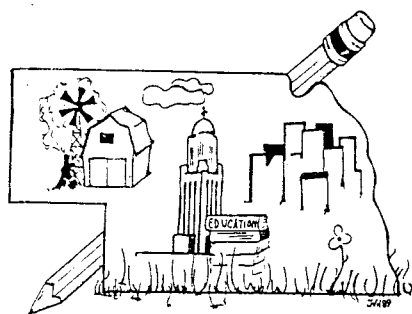


The Nebraska Observer

Vol. 6, No. 11, November 1, 1991



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COMICS**
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Section

World-Herald Opposition to Bonacci's Release Unconvincing

Parole Nears For Franklin Witness

by Frances Mendenhall

The World-Herald has, in the judgment of the Observer, overreacted to Paul Bonacci's upcoming parole.

In the opinion of Bonacci's attorney John DeCamp the paper is trying to prevent Bonacci's parole because it has something to hide.

Bonacci is the 24-year-old man indicted by the Douglas County grand jury in the summer of 1990 for perjury for his stories of sex abuse at the hands of many, including former World-Herald publisher Harold Andersen. And for telling the Grand Jury he had seen Alisha Owen with former Police Chief Robert Wadman. Owen was convicted in June for perjury for her allegations of a sexual involvement with Wadman. The same day Owen was convicted, perjury charges against Bonacci were dropped.

In an unrelated proceeding, Bonacci was convicted on three counts of child sexual assault and has served sixteen months of a five-year sentence in the Lincoln Correctional Center for a first-time offense. As this paper goes to press, Bonacci is nearing the last step in the process of being granted parole. The World-Herald, which has not often in our memory taken a stand on paroling a first-time sex offender, has editorially opposed Bonacci's parole.

Psychiatric Problem

Bonacci suffers from multiple personality disorder (MPD). In July, the Observer published an extensive interview with Bonacci in which he detailed a history going back to early childhood of sexual abuse. Bonacci's stories include being forced to participate in ritual sacrifice of children. He also claims to have been present, when he was 12, at the abduction of Johnny Gosch, the Des Moines paper carrier who disappeared in 1982. Details provided by Bonacci have convinced Gosch's parents that he is telling the truth. He was recently interviewed extensively by the Des Moines Register, which, as this is being written, has not yet printed the story.

Bonacci is not classified as a mentally disordered sex offender. His psychiatrist, Beverley Mead, gave the Observer some background on the disorder and its links with early trauma. Mead told the Observer that MPD is not a psychosis. He cited a reference that estimated that 97 or 98 percent of those who have the disorder had experienced child abuse, usually including physical, sexual (usually including incest), and psychological mistreatment.

Bonacci's crime was fondling a thirteen-year-old. According to his grandmother, Gayle Anderson, the event happened during a slumber party that was being held at her apartment. Bonacci, then 22, had invited some young boys he had known when he was a camp counselor the previous summer to a reunion and to spend the night. Anderson recalls that the evening of the get-together the weather turned cold; consequently only two of those invited showed up.

This is how Bonacci's grandmother remembers the evening of the crime. Bonacci and the two boys, Michael and Andrew, were on Paul's bed telling ghost stories and later fell asleep. She recalls that around 1:30 Michael called his mother to have her come get him. Although Anderson was in the next room, she did not hear him scream, as his mother told World-Herald reporter Bob Dorr. Anderson also denies that the child waited outside for his mother. One hour after Michael's mother picked him up, the police were at the apartment, arrested Bonacci and took with them many items in the apartment. Anderson told the Observer they did not have a warrant and that the possessions of hers taken that night were never accounted for or returned. The police told Anderson they were taking Andrew home, but took him and Bonacci to the police station. There, according to Bonacci, they questioned him and Andrew "for five hours." When the Observer interviewed Bonacci last July, he stated that he believed that Andrew had not intended to make any sort of complaint against him, but did so because the police kept him there so long and he finally told them what they wanted to hear in order to be allowed to go home and get some sleep. We were not able to locate the boy or his family to corroborate this story and the police refused comment because of a civil suit that Bonacci's attorney John DeCamp has filed against them and others.

Convicted of Fondling Three Boys

From the events of that evening, Bonacci was charged and convicted on three counts of sexual assault on a child. Two of the mothers of the three children involved gave their stories to the police in the hope that Bonacci could be helped. They were not angry or bitter, and offer no complaint about Bonacci's being paroled. Only the one interviewed by the World-Herald had a complaint. She told her story to the reporter the day after the hearing, but not to the parole board.

The second child, Andrew, was nine at the time. According to Bonacci's grandmother,

when the police picked Bonacci up, they also took Andrew in for questioning. According to her, they told her they were taking him home, but then took him to the police station and questioned him for five hours.

The court records for Bonacci's sentencing cite testimony from Andrew's mother, that describes a personality change in Bonacci, "that it was not Paul Bonacci that hurt him or did anything to him. He felt at the time we believed that Paul had a twin brother, and he felt that it was the twin brother that had done this..." Most of the testimony of this boy's mother seemed to be out of concern that Bonacci needed help and that her son "just wants his friend to be okay."

The third child, Bryan, is Bonacci's cousin. His mother told the Observer, "I don't think he deserved to go to jail. He definitely needs help, prison is not the answer for the experiences he has gone through. The damages to my son were not irreparable or severe." At the time, Bryan's mother volunteered information to the police. "I checked with Bryan and he told me Paul had touched him, so we reported it. I understand that you have to do that. My intent was not to put Paul in prison, just to recognize the problem and get some help. I don't have a problem with that [his parole] at all, as long as there's some counseling involved."

World-Herald Coverage

The day after the parole hearing, the World-Herald printed a story in which the mother of one of the three boys Bonacci fondled raised her objections to the parole. She described the damage done to her son and her continuing anger at Bonacci.

The majority of the article, however, was



not, about her anger, but just told details of the plan for Bonacci's parole and treatment. It was hard to justify the headline "Bonacci Release Stirs Anger," from the content, and even harder to justify headlining the jump the same way, "Release Angers Mother of Boy Bonacci Fondled."

The World-Herald printed the address of the minister, John Morrow, who has been counseling Bonacci and with whom Bonacci will be living. Within a week, a reporter showed up knocking on Morrow's neighbors doors to get their reactions to the prospect of having a paroled sex offender living nearby.

What was missing from the article was even stranger; that is, a description of the feelings of the families of the other two victims. These are a matter of public record, and one of the two mothers was interviewed by the Observer. The mothers of the other two victims did not express anger at Bonacci at the

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the nebraska observer
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Big Partisan Unicameral Best of Both Worlds

By Thomas A. Fogarty

I get nervous whenever anyone talks about adopting a Nebraska-style state legislature.

It happened here recently when Gretchen Tegeler, acting director of the Iowa Department of Management, acknowledged that state officials have discussed a one-house legislature as a way of cutting expenses.

As a newspaper reporter, I've spent the last dozen years covering legislatures in Nebraska and Iowa. I'm not bothered by the prospect of reducing the Iowa Legislature to one house. Such a change would streamline the legislative system, and save money. It simply makes too much sense to quarrel with.

But as a citizen and a taxpayer, it strikes terror into my heart to think that, if such a reform were to come to Iowa, it could bring with it two atrocious aspects of the Nebraska system -- non-partisanship and an excessive reduction in the number of legislators.

As hard as it may be to believe in this post-Mingo age, lobbyists in Des Moines wield far less influence than their counterparts in Lincoln. And the Nebraska Legislature's non-partisanship and small size -- 49 members -- account for it.

U. S. Senator George Norris, a 40-year congressional veteran best known as the political genius behind rural electrification, led the push for the 1934 constitutional amendment that brought a unicameral legislature to his home state.

Depression-era voters, attracted mainly by the prospect of a reduction in the \$200,000 cost of a legislative session, gave the proposed amendment 60-percent approval.

There is no more reason for a state to have a two-house legislature than there is for a bank to have two boards of directors or a city to have two boards of aldermen," Norris wrote in his autobiography.

On that point, he's right.

The two-house configuration of the U. S. Congress, which 49 states mimic, is the result of an 18th century compromise between large states and small. To resolve their impasse, the founders awarded Senate representation by geography, House representation by population.

In state capitols across the country, urban and rural factions continued to fight the geography-versus-population battle until the U. S. Supreme court brought it to a halt in 1963.

To preserve the principle of one person, one vote, the court ruled, all state legislatures must apportion membership by population. Other than tradition, states ceased to have any logical reason for continuing their two-house systems once the court spoke.

Critics of the unicameral system contend that the legislative product is improved by the independent deliberation of separate bodies. If legislative chambers were deliberative, the criticism might be valid.

Ninety percent of a legislature's workload is routine, non-controversial fine-tuning of existing law. How, for example, do redundant debates about qualifications for the state cosmetology board produce better legislation?

For the 10 percent of the legislative workload in which controversy lurks, there may be a benefit to separate debates in two chambers.

But, ironically, a de facto unicameralism normally takes over when it comes to resolution of the weightiest issues before a legislature. Typically, they either get worked out in a back room by majority leaders of both houses, or they go to a conference committee composed of members of each house.

At that point, the legislative rank-and-file are relegated to giving rubber-stamp approval

to whatever joint leadership shoves under their noses.

Citing a recent Iowa example, this year's state budget -- the biggest issue to come before the 1991 Legislature -- was written in a series of private meetings by a small group of House and Senate Democrats in the office of Senate President Joseph Welsh, a Dubuque Democrat. So much for independent deliberation by two houses.

The abuses of the conference committees in the U. S. Congress -- not the efficiency of one house -- provided Norris his main motivation for pushing the idea of unicameral legislature in Nebraska.

"The greatest evil of a two-house legislature is its institution of the conference committee," Norris wrote. "There, the 'bosses' and the special interests and the monopolies get in their secret work behind the scenes."

Norris started his congressional career as a Republican, and ended it as an independent. He was constantly at odds with Republican leaders, and his distrust of party bosses was institutionalized in his proposal for a unicameral legislature. As approved by Nebraska voters, the amendment requires legislators to be elected on a non-partisan ballot.

Average citizens tend to be cynical about party politics. But they fail to credit parties, when they operate as intended, with protecting the general interest of society, and keeping special interests at bay. Party leaders in the

Iowa Legislature caught selling out to lobbyists risk the alienation of the rank-and-file lawmakers who elect them to their positions.

The first sale that any Iowa legislator must make in pursuing major legislation is to colleagues in the party caucus, where the diverse and competing interests of society are represented in microcosm.

In Nebraska, the protection of a party structure in non-existent. Lobbyists there act as the second legislative house, and some would argue the superior house.

The public interest is further jeopardized in Nebraska by small numbers. A good lobbyist in Lincoln can wire a secret deal to benefit a client within a very small circle of legislators. While 150 -- the number of legislators in Iowa -- may be excessive, reformers must remember in their search for efficiency that the ability of lobbyists to divide and conquer increases as the number of legislators decreases.

So, anyone for an 80-member partisan Unicameral in Iowa? I say give it a try.

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The Nebraska Observer
is distributed monthly by the
Nebraska Citizens' Publishing Group,
a non-profit corporation.
The Nebraska Observer was formerly
published under the name WHAMO

Letters and manuscripts may be sent to:

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Incinerator Firm Targets Oakland

Closed Door Meetings Raise Doubts of Fair Fight

by Frances Mendenhall

The subject of incinerators is once again splitting a Nebraska community.

Oakland, pop. 1300, about 15 miles south of Sioux City, is being considered by Safeway Environmental Technologies, SET, of Deer Lodge, Montana, as a site for a medical-waste incinerator. Although an official proposal has not been made to the city council, support and opposition is being organized.

SET's intentions of placing an incinerator in Nebraska were delayed Sept. 17 when the citizens of Homer, Neb. voted the proposition out in a special election. Homer had been SET's first choice, and when the citizens rejected the proposal, Oakland, also on the original list, again was considered.

Citizen Opposition

The problem, according to teacher and incinerator opponent Debbie Anderson, is that the deal is being cut behind closed doors. In a September 26 interview with the World-Herald, Oakland Mayor Chet Andreasen said whether Oakland will accept the incinerator is a decision to be made by Oakland residents, not him or the city council. But Debbie Anderson is not optimistic about the chances for a fair fight. "I don't think we'll get to vote without going to a referendum, and we're

prepared to do that," she told the Observer.

"This issue has never been on a city council agenda," said Anderson. "When we asked to speak to the city council they weren't going to let us on the agenda because there wasn't any business. But we showed up with 150 people and a petition and a pastor supporting us, and got on the agenda."

Anderson was describing the October 7 Oakland City Council meeting, which according to the headline in the Oakland Independent, was, although "not a public hearing," attended by 125 people.

A local minister, Rev. Michael Dismar of the Lutheran Church in Oakland, presented that meeting with a petition signed by 250 people asking the city to ban the incinerator at least "until federal and state regulations deal with safety issues." According to a World-Herald article, the signatures were gathered without going door-to-door.

Support from town leaders

Support for the incinerator seemed to be coming from town leaders including its 18-year mayor, Chet Andreasen, Oakland City Administrator Stan Anderson, and the editor of Oakland's newspaper.

But since the voters in Homer rejected a similar offer, and since citizens such as Dismar

and Debbie Anderson have been raising questions, Mayor Andreasen has says he is no longer an incinerator supporter. "I don't personally have any more plans," he told the Observer, "but the final decision will be up to the council." The city council meets Monday, Nov. 4. Andreasen said he didn't know whether they would move on it or not.

Mayor Andreasen, according to an October 8 World-Herald article, "recently said he was interested in getting the \$3.7 million project because of the tax revenue and jobs it would provide."

In an article the previous week, Andreasen was reported as having told the World-Herald that 90 percent of the people of Oakland wanted the incinerator. Later, he claimed he had been misquoted.

We were unable to reach SET to ask whether they were still interested in Oakland as a site. SET's promoter Bill Lawrence had had a motel room where he could be contacted in Oakland, but now appears to have returned to Deer Lodge, Mont. In a meeting October 29 with four or five citizens in neighboring Lynch, however, Lawrence told Lynch residents that they were in competition with Oakland as a possible site, according to Larry Halstead, village board chair. Lynch is twenty-three miles east of Butte, one of the communities torn apart by recent controversy over low-level radioactive waste disposal, and ten miles from SD border.

Another apparent incinerator supporter is City Administrator Stan Anderson. In early June when SET chose Homer over Oakland as its preferred site, Anderson expressed his disappointment in an article in the Fremont Tribune. Anderson told the Tribune that a strong majority favored putting the incinerator in Oakland, and that "there are some very disappointed people here." After the October 7 city council meeting, Anderson was appointed to head up a committee to study the issue in-depth, and make its recommendation

to the city council. Anderson is facilitating the committee, but the committee has not met yet.

The Oakland Independent's Dewaine Gahan, editorially described Oakland's selection as "great news." "Right now, we should be filled with hope -- hope that we get selected," wrote Gahan.

Gahan, however, editorially advocates "open-mindedness" but chastises the citizen opponents of the incinerator. In his July 18 editorial, he called them "negativemongers," and on September 26 he exhorted the citizens to be wary of out-of-town special interest groups, especially "the negative side." Gahan did not come up with a monetary motive as the driving force of the "negativemongers," or really any motive, except that "They care about one thing and one thing only; that they spread their special-interest 'gospel.'"

But Debbie Anderson questions such open-mindedness, which, she says, is based on one meeting and one handout from SET.

"They took SET at face value, believing such claims as 'zero emissions', without doing any investigation any farther. Their attitude is that it's our duty to prove it's not safe, but really it's their duty to prove that it is safe," said Anderson.

The Oakland-Craig-Uehling Ministerial Association has also gotten involved. The organization includes eight pastors, including incinerator opponent Dismar. In the interest of maintaining unity in the community, they plan a community prayer service for Nov. 4. Pastor Alan Eagle, president of the organization described the service as an "Affirmation of Community." It is to be held at 6:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, Oakland.

Some regional newspapers (e.g. the *Burt County Plaindealer*, and the *Fremont Tribune*) have opposed incinerators as exploitive of the state. (See box).

Besides Lynch, the Observer also has an unconfirmed report that West Point is also interested in being a site for the incinerator.

Incinerator Controversy Shows Need For Stronger State Regs

Despite a small Nebraska village's vote against a proposed medical waste incinerator, there is still a chance the state will once again be targeted to bear an unfair burden of this nation's waste disposal dilemma.

Homer residents on Tuesday (Sept. 17) rejected a Montana company's bid to build a \$3.7 million plant that would have burned 60 tons of waste a day.

But officials from Safeway Environmental Technologies, of Deer Lodge, Mont., say other Nebraska communities, such as Oakland, Dakota City and Decatur, have expressed interest in having the facility.

In Homer, however, fears that the incinerator would release emissions into the air that are harmful to public health and the environment outweighed any possible job and economic growth which could be made possible by the facility.

As opponents of the facility pointed out, the issue strongly shows that Nebraska needs stronger laws to keep out-of-state companies from trying to build incinerators in this state. In this case, however, waste reportedly would be trucked to the facility from within a day's drive. Still, that makes it possible, even likely, that waste from other states, such as Iowa, South

Dakota and Kansas, would be brought into Nebraska.

Nebraska often is selected by waste companies because it doesn't have important laws, similar to those in Iowa and other states, that prohibit such moves.

The issue also is a reminder that the controversy over a proposed nuclear waste dump in Boyd County isn't simply an isolated incident. Nebraska is a prime target of waste disposal companies because of its inexpensive land, low population and, tragically, a lack of legal protection against such exploitation.

Still, some people, apparently driven by money and thinking very little about future health risks and irreversible environmental damage, were disappointed by Homer's rejection of the facility. A frightening thought considering what a driving factor greed can be.

Hopefully, residents in other Nebraska communities selected as possible waste disposal facility sites will research the likely effects of incinerators and dumps in their communities and take a strong stand against such facilities.

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"Assert your right to know; support the alternative press."

—Maggie Kuhn, Gray Panthers

Anita Hill Suffered a Political Assault...

by Colman McCarthy

Sexual harassment Wyoming-style was on display at the Thomas hearings when that state's junior senator, Alan Simpson, politically assaulted Anita Hill. At the Saturday, Oct. 12, Judiciary Committee hearings, he took to the lowest of the low roads for the sleaze of hit-and-run innuendo.

"I really am getting stuff over the transom about Professor Hill," he began. "I've got letters hanging out of my pocket. I've got faxes. I've got statements from Tulsa saying: Watch out for this woman."

The context for the senator's friendly little smear was a tirade about "this sexual harassment crap." With the dialogue elevated to

those heights, Simpson let his comments about Hill hang there, like an airborne virus about to infect the population below. Simpson didn't offer a definition of "this woman," but it was given to everyone to understand that the folks back in Oklahoma knew something about the wicked Hill that dupes inside the Beltway didn't. Nor did Simpson reach for any of those letters "hanging out" of his pocket to put them into the record.

An apology is owed to Hill by Simpson, who has a history — back home and in Washington — of oratorical wildness, otherwise known as running off at the mouth. His smearing of Hill was unmanly. She was absent, unable to challenge the senator face to face or demand that he back up his bullying by reading some of the letters and faxes.

Would Simpson have been as bold had Anita Hill still sat at the witness table? Or if she were a fellow senator? Or a man? Not likely. Political harassment, like sexual harassment, demands powerless victims, ones who probably won't fight back. It was exactly that — Hill's coming forth to challenge the might of Clarence Thomas and his White House patrons — that roused the ire of Simpson. Female underlings aren't supposed to do that. In the patriarchal culture that is the U.S. Senate — 98 percent male — Simpson had the safest of all contexts in which to bully.

So did Arlen Specter and Orrin Hatch. The Pennsylvanian labeled the absent Hill "a flat-out perjurer," a federal crime if he'd like to press charges. Hatch of Utah portrayed her as

a deviant who lifted a line from "The Exorcist" to attack Thomas.

Beating up on Hill was of such pleasure that pummelings to other absentees became the Republican committee members' way of finding the truth. Hatch denounced those "slick liberal lawyers" who opposed Thomas, as against, presumably, all those unslick conservative lawyers who favored him. He railed against People for the American Way and other sinister forces who had dared exercise their constitutional right to petition the government.

Simpson, Hatch and Specter were out of control, which could have been half-expected. But it was the committee chair, Joseph Biden, who let the bullies have their way. He should have gaveled the three to silence when their questioning ended and their speechifying began. Biden is a motor-mouth babler who lacks self-control, which means that a license to irrelevancies, no matter how hurtful, must extend to every member of the committee.

Even if Anita Hill were lying through every tooth in her head, the smearing she suffered was undeserved. She offered a powerful and plausible case that Thomas' sexual harassment had in fact happened, and she impressed many with her testimony that she was hurt by it. Should the time come to argue that she was politically harassed by Simpson, Hatch and Specter, she'd have ample proof. The whole country could corroborate.

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...But As A Result She Opened Many Doors

by Frances Mendenhall

It is too bad she failed to keep the man she described as sexually harassing her off the Supreme Court, but Anita Hill's courage did open some doors for the rest of us. Many women I know are much more articulate now than they were last month on the subject of unwelcome sexual attention.

As far as I'm concerned, the more we tell our stories, the sooner the day will come when we don't have to pretend we're flattered by jokes that are really put-downs. And the sooner people will quit questioning the "motives" of people like Anita Hill. And the sooner we all, male and female, will be able to demand a certain baseline of sensitivity without worrying about the fallout.

Experiences I have had made me know, as none of the guys on the Senate Committee could know, that Anita was not making her story up. Here is what happened to me.

Jack (not his real name), has been a family friend for nearly thirty years. He is always full of flattering things to say, and he always has a joke to tell. Jack genuinely likes people and gives encouragement to everyone, especially women. Often his jokes are sexual. Almost without exception, he brings up the subject of breast size. It is always couched as a compliment (of course). I remember being given a

gift of a plaque that said "Small busted women have big hearts."

My sisters and I complained about it among ourselves, and my mother tsked tsked, but nobody confronted him. It was hard to do because he would work a breast comment in while he was doing you a favor, or when you were in a place where you didn't want to make a scene. I don't know how guys would feel if someone of the opposite sex thought it was socially acceptable to talk about penis size, but I'd just as soon not have the subject of breast size come up unless I'm talking with a bra saleswoman. The problem is, if you complain about it when it happens, you just draw more attention to it, or sound like a whiner, so you can't win.

If I were to describe Jack's breast comments to a committee considering him for a high position, I am sure his reaction would be like Thomas's. *Moi? No way would I do anything to humiliate anyone. Besides, I love women. And I have always lent support to Frances!* He just hasn't opened his mind to fact that we stopped laughing a long time ago. If the pressure were great enough, maybe he would even lie and say it never happened.

Some time in the early '80s, I set my mind to work on the problem. By then I had picked up enough strength from the women's move-

ment to know I wasn't a bad sport for being mad about what he was doing. I needed a strategy to shut him up. I still would run into him about once a year at family things, so the problem hadn't gone away. About three years ago I figured out what to say. I had the words all ready. I'd preempt him, break the taboo, and open a conversation about penis size.

Him: Can I sit by you?

Me: Sure, Jack. But I have one request. This time if we're going to talk about the size of any body parts, let's make it penises, OK? I mean, I'm not trying to be a prude or anything, it's just that we've been doing it the other way for a long time now, and I'd like a change. OK?

It was a good strategy. Besides preempting, I'd be one-upping him. And without risking any jokes at my expense.

I rehearsed several versions of the above, and was determined not to be swayed.

Eventually, our two families and another couple got together for dinner and I was ready. Jack got to the restaurant late and I was already seated between two other people. Between salad and the main course he turned the conversation my way.

Jack had a lavish compliment about what wonderful people the Mendenhalls are, espe-

cially me. He went on and on, and made a few cute jokes. Then, after publicly pumping me up, he asked the person next to me if he'd trade so he could sit by me.

It was time for my line, but I was the one who had been preempted. There was just no way I could open my mouth and let him have it. I told myself he was being so nice this time, he probably wouldn't say anything inappropriate. I couldn't stand the thought of sounding mean or shrill in front of the group. I zipped my lip.

Jack sat down. He talked about current events, and made other small talk. But within five minutes he was telling me a joke about waitresses with — guess what — small breasts. By then, calling attention to penises would not work. Anything I said now would only turn a little irritation into open hostilities.

I'd been had again, and the woman to my left didn't even know how mad I was. Anita Hill surely must have felt the same way. I was silenced as Anita had been, and by someone I didn't even have to go back to for job references!

So, even though after thirty years I have not solved this small problem (it only took Anita

Continued on next page

In the Absence of Proof

Thomas Presumed Innocent, Hill Presumed Guilty

by Tara Muir

Which is a greater sacrifice to Anita Hill -- to allow Clarence Thomas to judge American life for 50 years or to allow her own life to swirl down the drain?

She and Thomas have calculators in hand and statements coming out of their ears.

They are both the sacrificial lambs offered to the gods of special interest groups.

It's about time. Bleeding-heart liberals have been broiled well-done and served on a silver platter to the conserva-tyrants far too long.

When is the American public going to expose the cover-up tactics of politicians?

How long do women have to ask to be treated like human beings? Women have asked, then demanded, but American society continues to muffle their screams, blaming it on PMS. Not anymore. Women are on the front pages, and now they're watching their abusers squirm.

However, the sacrificial lambs are a black man and a black woman, hashing it out for a committee of 14 white men to judge. Male senators admit they cannot personally understand sexual harassment. If they can't understand, how can they judge?

Why is Thomas innocent until proven guilty but Hill is guilty of lying until proven otherwise? The double standard is alive and well in 1991.

If a tenured law professor isn't a credible witness for sexual harassment, who is? A nun? The conserva-tyrants would find some choir boy who had a juicy story to tell...

Rage roars through me when Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) reads from "The Exorcist" or past sexual harassment cases. Did it ever occur to him that maybe the materials he accuses Hill of using to fabricate her story could be the same materials that Thomas used to harass her?

Not only is Hill lying, according to you know who, she is

incapable of thinking for herself. What better defense for politicians than to smear their opponent? This is enough to call women to your battle stations ... again.

Thomas' credibility was shot when he claimed he had no opinion on a woman's fundamental right to privacy. He lowered his credibility further when he didn't even listen to Hill's testimony on Friday.

Office politics are a fact of life. But intertwine these politics with who's sleeping with whom and you've got one hell of a confused rat race. Leave sex for social gatherings and bedrooms, not the board room.

How do I know, you ask? Because while I lived and worked in the furniture business in Miami, Fla., from 1984 to 1989, I was subjected to a boss who thought kissing me was a reward for sales. After I told his pucker to take a hike, he never harassed me again and was responsible for several great promotions and raises.

But later I was subjected to the insults of a new boss who told 20 men during a meeting that he and I had taken pictures of ourselves as we fooled around while working late the night before. There was no fooling around. I confronted him and politely asked if he would leave me out of his obnoxious jokes. He laughed in my face.

He fired or forced to resign four women managers, replacing them with men. My own job had been reduced to buying his specialty coffee beans instead of furniture inventory.

He referred to the company's typical customer as a "standard brain-dead woman." Not only did I have to contend with his daily compliments on how well my baggy clothes fit, but I had to contend with outright slander against my gender. Enough was enough. I quit the job and then joined the National Organization for Women.

I used to think I had won when I found a better paying job. But I really lost. He was allowed to control my life because he was a man and I was a woman. That will not happen to me again.

If my two former bosses were to be nominated to the Cartoon Hall of Fame, I would hesitate to come forward for two reasons. I would not want to relive it again, and more importantly, they are still great professional references for my work.

I understand Anita Hill's apathy for 10 years. If you don't, you must not be a woman who has worked in an office, or you are a blind conserva-tyrant follower (a disease that has reached epidemic proportions on the UNO campus).

Last week, Hill had one choice. She had to save American women from Clarence Thomas, who believes women are second class.

Regardless of the outcome, thank you, Anita Hill. You "man" your battle station well.

Reprinted from the Gateway



Continued from previous page

ten to speak out, and people criticized her for not doing it sooner), I am renewed in my determination to shut Jack up. I will do it to prove Anita's courage was not in vain. And I will do it to make a better climate for my daughter and all our daughters.

So, Jack, your number's up. You can thank Anita Hill for the prompt.

**Women and Health
New Knowledge About Problem
Drinking in Women**
Tuesday, November 5
7:30-9:00 p.m.
Student Center-East Ballroom
Creighton

*Interfaith Prayer Assembly
For harmony and community
November 22, 8:15
Temple Israel, 8023 Cass, Omaha*

Med Industry PACs Lobby Against Health Reform

Medical-industry political action committees (PACs) invested a total \$60,030,791 in congressional candidates, including \$43,186,229 to current members of Congress, during the period January 1, 1981, through June 30, 1991, according to a Common Cause study.

The contributions were given during a decade when health care costs more than

doubled and prescription drug prices rose by 152 percent.

Fifteen of the 21 senators who received more than \$200,000 each from medical-industry PACs during the period serve on committees with health care oversight. All of the top 25 House recipients of medical-industry PAC contributions serve on key house committees with health-care oversight or are members of the House leadership.

"The same insurance companies, doctors, hospitals and drug manufacturers that live off the nearly \$700 billion-a-year health care industry are battling comprehensive reform on Capitol Hill and at the White House," according to a special *Common Cause Magazine* report also released today.

"The monied interests have caused gridlock," Dr. Robert Berenson, a physician who served on President Jimmy Carter's domestic policy staff, told the magazine.

The Healthcare Equity Action League (HEAL), a powerful antireform coalition, counts more than 300 businesses, insurance companies and health care providers as members, among them many of the most active medical PACs. Together they hope to block all major health care reform proposals, Alan Kranowitz of HEAL told the magazine.

The health insurance industry, which contributed more than \$19 million to congressional candidates during the period,

represents a huge obstacle to reform efforts, the magazine reports. "They are actually against doing anything, because they realize that any kind of reform is going to involve some federal regulation of the insurance industry," Robert Blendon, chair of the health policy and management department at Harvard's School of Public Health told the magazine.

The medical industry has become a top player in Washington's money game, according to the magazine. The contributions from medical-industry PACs stand out "because they are directed more narrowly toward influencing votes on health-related legislation, and because they seem to reflect the industry's increasing economic clout," the magazine reports.

Medical-Industry PACs

During the past decade, overall PAC contributions to congressional candidates have increased by 90 percent, while medical-industry PAC contributions have grown by 140 percent during the same period, the Common Cause study found.

The Common Cause study of the giving patterns of more than 200 medical-industry PACs and their affiliates found that 519 of the 534 current members of Congress received contributions from the industry.

Tom Goodwin of the Federation of American Health Systems told the magazine, "We spend our money on those Members...most interested in maintaining the current system."

J. Michael Hogan of the American Chiropractic Association told *Common Cause Magazine*, "We tend to contribute to incum-

bents that look very stable and like there's no chance of someone unseating them."

PAC contributions from the major interests that make up the medical industry, according to the study, include:

- \$27,049,047 from medical professional PACs (including associations for doctors, dentists, nurses and other health practitioners);
- \$19,013,113 from insurance PACs;
- \$8,141,351 from pharmaceutical PACs; and

- \$5,827,280 from PACs associated with hospitals and other care providers.

The largest medical-industry PACs and their total contributions to congressional candidates during the period 1981 through mid-1991, according to the study, are:

1. American Medical Association \$11,944,307
2. National Association of Life Underwriters \$5,554,939
3. American Dental Association \$4,034,298
4. American Academy of Ophthalmology \$1,900,561
5. American Hospital Association \$1,771,307

The AMA: Leader of the PACs

The AMA and its state affiliates contributed almost \$12 million in PAC contributions that went to nearly every current Member of Congress — 86 Senators and 401 Representatives, the study found.

"Health care reform has never fared well politically in the United States, and for most of the 20th century there has been one enduring reason: the intractable opposition of the AMA," the magazine reports. "Throughout the 1970s and '80s it was the AMA that

wielded the most political power in health-related issues. It used political contributions, advertising and letter-writing campaigns to support its friends, attack its enemies and influence legislation on everything from Medicare fees to doctors' relationships with drug manufacturers."

According to Princeton University political economist Uwe Reinhardt, "What the head of the AMA thinks in the shower in the morning is so much more important than the aspirations of 10 million Americans."

The political involvement of physicians extends beyond the PAC contributions of the AMA, according to the magazine. Federal Election Commission records show that individuals identifying themselves as medical doctors additionally made at least \$7.48 million in direct individual contributions to congressional candidates during the period 1981 through 1990, according to the magazine.

"You underestimate the AMA's influence at your peril. They have truly awesome power," according to Dr.

Top Congressional Recipients of Medical-Industry PAC Contributions

1. Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA)	\$497,250
2. Sen. David Durenberger (R-MN)	496,462
3. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen (D-TX)	413,050
4. Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT)	374,165
5. Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA)	360,805
6. Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY)	356,712
7. Rep. Richard Gephardt (D-MO)	356,525
8. Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT)	347,629
9. Sen. Bill Bradley (D-NJ)	343,749
10. Sen. Dan Coats (R-IN)	320,418
11. Rep. Robert Matsui (D-CA)	307,750
12. Sen. Robert Dole (R-KS)	303,073
13. Rep. Robert Michel (R-IL)	295,850
14. Sen. John Rockefeller (D-WV)	293,072
15. Sen. Thomas Daschle (D-SD)	289,083
16. Sen. Tom Chafee (R-RI)	285,408
17. Sen. Phil Gramm (R-TX)	283,837
18. Sen. Steve Symms (R-ID)	279,283
19. Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA)	270,404
20. Rep. Beryl Anthony (D-AR)	269,900
21. Rep. Byron Dorgan (D-ND)	254,196
22. Sen. John Danforth (R-MO)	250,635
23. Rep. Norman Lent (R-NY)	250,130
24. Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA)	245,361
25. Sen. Richard Shelby (D-AL)	244,682

Jan. 1, 1981 through June 30, 1991

Significant Anti-Health Reform PAC Money Goes to Exon

At a time when 90 percent of Americans believe the nation's health care system needs fundamental change, a Common Cause study released today indicates that medical-industry political action committees (PACs) contributed \$60,030,791 to congressional candidates during the period January 1, 1981, through June 30, 1991.

The list of twenty-five top Senate recipients shows Senator James Exon in twenty-first place, having received \$204,050 in medical-industry PAC contributions. A breakdown of the medical-industry PACs shows that Senator Exon was ninth of the top recipients of funds from health insurance PACs; he received \$113,050 from PACs representing health insurance companies and their trade associations between January of 1981 and June of 1991.

Common Cause/Nebraska contacted Senator Exon's office and was told by Exon's chief of staff, Greg Pallas that Sen. Exon has always supported campaign finance reform legisla-

tion, but added, "Until we change the law, we can't unilaterally disarm and stop taking PAC money." Pallas also pledged that "Political contributions do not lead to influence in this office."

However, it would appear that at least one of the reasons that our nation's health care problems are not being solved is the political influence of special interest groups with a vested interest in the status quo. A special report for the Common Cause Magazine by Vicki Kemper and Viveca Novak says, "The same insurance companies, doctors, hospitals and drug manufacturers that live off the nearly \$700 billion-a-year health care industry are battling comprehensive reform on Capitol Hill and at the White House." Jean Eden, Executive Director of Common Cause/Nebraska, stated, "Passing effective campaign finance reform legislation would liberate both elected representatives and ordinary citizens of the country, letting them move forward with solutions to the very real problems in health care facing people today."

Top Senate Recipients of Medical-Industry PAC Contributions

1. Senator David Durenberger (R-MN)	\$496,462
2. Senator Lloyd Bentsen (D-TX)	413,050
3. Senator Max Baucus (D-MT)	374,165
4. Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT)	347,629
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13. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA)	270,404
14. Senator John Danforth (R-MO)	250,635
15. Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA)	245,361
16. Senator Richard Shelby (D-AL)	244,682
17. Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA)	241,900
18. Senator Christopher Bond (R-MO)	230,275
19. Senator Hank Brown (R-CO)	218,125
20. Senator George Mitchell (D-ME)	214,450
21. Senator James Exon (D-NE)	204,050
22. Senator Daniel Moynihan (D-NY)	198,115
23. Senator Howell Heflin (D-AL)	196,400
24. Senator Don Nickles (R-OK)	186,700
25. Senator William Roth (R-DE)	185,800

Seventeen of the top 25 recipients of medical-industry PAC contributions serve on either the Senate Finance Committee or the Senate Labor & Human Resources Committee.

Continued from previous page

Quentin Young, the leader of the 4,000-member Physicians for a National Health Program, which supports a complete overhaul of the current system.

James Stacey of the AMA told the magazine, "We support a large number of congressional candidates. We don't expect that we are buying their minds, their hearts or anything else. Yet we hope that we will have some access to them. The bigger issue is to get physicians involved in the political process."

Insurance Interests

The Health Insurance Association of America (HIAA), which represents 300 commercial insurance companies that provide coverage for 95 million Americans, strongly opposes key health care reform proposals that recently have been introduced. "We do not have a lot of confidence in the federal government when it comes to regulating insurance products," Donald White of HIAA told the magazine.

Congressional aides told *Common Cause Magazine* that insurance companies and trade associations have done more lobbying on health-care reform than any of the other interest groups so far.

To strengthen its hand against federal reforms, the magazine reports, HIAA is focusing on state-level insurance reform, and will spend at least \$4 million on lobbying, public relations and legal work in targeted states.

Prospects for Health Care Reform

"The flood of health-related PAC money into Congress hasn't done anything for the health of American business of the nation's economy," according to the magazine. Health care spending now accounts for 12 percent of the country's gross national product, and it will consume 37 percent of the GNP by the year 2030 if costs continue to increase at their current rate, according to Richard Darman of the Office of Management and Budget.

At least 24 health care reform proposals are now pending in Congress, and the House Ways and Means Committee conducted hearings last week on health reform.

The most comprehensive health care reform proposals fall into one of two categories, the magazine reported:

«The "pay-or-play" approach would expand the current health insurance system. Employers would be required to either "pay" the government to enroll their employees in a new public health program or "play" by providing their employees with a minimum package of

private insurance benefits. This model is included in a bill introduced by Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (D-ME) and Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA), and in a bill introduced by Representative Waxman. Bills also have been introduced by Senators John Rockefeller (D-WV), Paul Simon (D-IL), Brock Adams (D-WA) and Representative Dan Rostenkowski (D-IL).

«The "single-payer" approach would replace the current system with a government-financed program. This proposal is similar to the Canadian system, where citizens choose their own doctors and receive care in private clinics and hospitals, but the government imposes strict cost controls and functions as the nation's insurance company. "Single-payer" proposals have been introduced by Representative Marty Russo (D-IL), whose bill has more than 50 cosponsors; Senators Bob Kerrey (D-NE) and Paul Wellstone (D-MN), and Representatives Stark, Mary Rose Oakar (D-OH), John Dingell (D-OH) and Sam Gibbons (D-FL).

Some observers say that runaway health costs and public pressure will eventually force Congress to overcome interest-group opposition and pass some version of health care reform, the magazine reports. "They worry, however, that it may be too little too late, and wonder what, if anything, can be accomplished without the support

of the White House."

President Bush has attacked Democratic reform proposals but has offered no vision of his own, the magazine reports. Deborah Steelman, a key Bush adviser on health care issues, also is a lobbyist who represents several clients who oppose significant reform, including the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, Johnson & Johnson, Aetna Life & Casualty, and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Missouri.

"Despite the flurry of legislative activity," according to the magazine, "the conventional wisdom among industry experts and political analysts is that meaningful reform is three to five years away at best."

According to one congressional aide, "Things will probably have to get worse for more people before we will see something happen."

Reprinted from *Common Cause*

Nebraska Observer T-shirts



For those who appreciate the other side of the news.

- 50/50 poly-cotton knit, heavy
- silver blue
- \$10 each plus shipping
- We can include a gift enclosure card if you wish.

A pleasure to own, a delight to give.

Yes!

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(circle)

S M L XL

S M L XL

Cost:

\$10 per shirt

Shipping:

\$2 per shirt

inside Nebraska

\$2.50 per shirt

outside Nebraska

☐ Check for gift enclosure card.

Peace Necklace, Old Harleys, Oatmeal Cookies Help Reader Fit Right In at Quaker Wedding



Dear Lulu:

Dear Lulu:

I have a friend who's getting married and I just found out she's a "Quaker" and it'll be a "Quaker" wedding and now I just don't know what to do because I already bought the wedding present and it was a videotape of highlights from the Persian Gulf War and now I find out Quakers don't like war and I'm wondering if I have to take my husband's guns out of the pickup rack when we drive to the wedding and if I have to dress like that little man on the Quaker oats box and why do people put you through things like this?

Love, A Friend from Friend.

Dear Friend:

Weddings are traditionally violent events, rendering old relationships asunder, so it's nice your friend belongs to a peaceful sect. I suggest you make some oatmeal cookies, buy

a used Peace necklace and ride in on an old Harley. You'll fit right in.

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

I see that President Bush has forgiven over \$200 million owed by Uruguay and we've agreed to give \$35 million to Syria. I'm just so proud of him helping take care of the world, but I haven't heard what he's doing for the homeless here at home. Did I overlook something?

Love, Concerned in Concord.

Dear Concerned:

Don't worry; things are under control. President Bush has a special plan to help the homeless that will still let him think he's handling foreign policy. He's going to ship the homeless to Kuwait on Pan American Airways, where we'll recognize them as a foreign affairs problem and give each of them a new hot dog and a \$5 bill. Who said those Republicans aren't compassionate?

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

I just read the sweetest thing in the paper that a boy from North Bend, Nebraska, has given his finger to a teacher. Now, isn't that just the sweetest thing you've ever heard of? I think the donation of organs and digits shows that people still care for one another. Do you get my drift?

Love, A Grandmother from Grand Island.

Dear Grand:

I think you're in a drift. This boy didn't just give a finger, but the supreme digit was in-

involved. While pending in the courts, we probably should avoid comment, and you should lie down for awhile.

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

I'm watching the TV and seeing some pompous politicians rake a black man over the coals because he wants to be a Supreme Court justice and I suddenly say to myself, who is this guy? Who is Clarence Thomas? Where did he come from? And then I suddenly say to myself, who was David Souter? Where did he come from? And then I suddenly say to myself, who was Judge Bork? And then I suddenly say to myself, who was Dan Quayle? Where does President Bush get these guys that nobody ever heard of before? And so I suddenly say to myself, do you have a clue?

Love, Talking to Himself in Tekamah.

Dear Talking:

President Bush has the only known copy of a 1962 book written by Dick Nixon and William F. Buckley, "Republicans You Never Heard Of." It was written to try and offset the success of "Profiles in Courage," but never caught on. Get ready, the book is long.

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

I was recently at the mall, waiting for a bus, when this do-gooder man came past me and smiled. I tried to avoid his smile and eyes, but he just kept forcing me and forcing me to look so he could say "hi." So despite my efforts, I was forced to say "hi" to this creep. Now, as

it happens, this particular bimbo was my brother-in-law, so I suppose in the end it was all right that I said "hi" but can't something be done to protect others from this blight?

Love, Disturbed in Deshler.

Dear Disturbed:

I'm confused. Is the blight your brother-in-law or creeps in general? Because there is a statute against in-laws called the "leash law," in which your spouse must keep all your in-laws on a leash when under your castle's roof, or something like that. As for creeps in general, you're on your own. However, since it doesn't sound like you get out of the home much, maybe this problem won't reoccur for awhile. Keep truckin'.

Love, Lulu.

Dear Lulu:

I was sittin' at my desk in school and this fly lit on my paper so I started to swat him but just before I hit him he jumped to my pen and so I bopped him dead on my pen, but right on the part I always stick in my mouth. Well, now I'm just sick because I've got all this fly stuff on my pen and I want to put the pen in my mouth. So I washed the pen with soap and Lysol and everything and I've made a solemn oath I won't put it in my mouth again but I just know I will. Don't you just hate it when these things happen to you?

Love, Diptera from Dwight.

Dear Diptera:

Yes.

Love, Lulu.

Assistant State Ag Director Fired by Governor

by Jeff Kirkpatrick

Barbara Meister, the assistant director of the State Department of Agriculture, was fired in September, apparently ending any attempt by the Nelson administration to substantially reform and redirect the energy of the department.

Leland Wagner, president of the Nebraska League of Rural Voters, called the move, "a tremendous disappointment to people in the country, many of whom supported Ben Nelson because they were hoping for a change." He added, "We have long felt the state department of ag should be doing a better job of serving as an advocate for family farmers."

Philosophical Differences

Larry Sitzman, the department head, has not talked publicly about his reasons for firing Meister, a former employee of Jim Hightower's Texas Department of Agriculture. However he reportedly told staff members that he made the move because of "philosophical differences" between himself and Meister.

A review of actions by Meister while she was in the department sheds some light on

possible philosophical differences.

Meister has been pushing for a department performance audit, an outside review of the department to assess the effectiveness of the department and identify places for improvements. Meister said that a number of employees were threatened by such an evaluation. Sitzman has canceled the performance audit, though such reviews are proceeding in the state Department of Labor and Economic Development.

Meister said she also ruffled feathers when she failed to hire a former commodities broker as an alternative crops specialist. She said she made that decision when the job applicant was unfamiliar with the term "sustainable ag" and appeared doubtful of its importance. That job applicant was later hired by the department.

The budget was another troublesome area for Meister. When she asked to go through the proposed budget and have it explained to her she was told, "No assistant director has ever asked questions about the budget."

In the Wrong Spot

When asked for the Nelson administration's

reaction, gubernatorial chief of staff Sandy Scofield commented that Meister is an intelligent and ambitious person who "just happened to be in the wrong spot." That comment raises the question of whether the Nelson Administration regards the Ag Department to be the wrong spot for "intelligent, ambitious" people, or just for Meister.

Advocacy and Education

The Ag Department mission statement calls for it to "encourage and promote the interests of agriculture through advocacy and education." The question needs to be asked, "What is the department advocating?" The answer, for the most part, is unclear, which would seem to indicate that the advocacy is being neglected.

Certainly Farmers Union would like to see it advocate a policy that is biased toward encouraging the growth and prosperity of family farmers. We would like to see the promotion of small value-added industries which would strengthen and enrich rural communities. We would like to see the cooperative model pushed as a way for small commu-

nities to meet their needs.

This contradicts the viewpoint that the state Ag Department is strictly a regulatory agency and that it has no business thinking about ag policy or rural economies. There might be some validity in that argument, but if that is the policy then the department mission statement should be changed.

If the state Ag Department is not going to play a role in helping family farmers, then perhaps the Rural Rehabilitation money should be shifted somewhere else. The Rural Rehab funds were set up during the Depression to help rebuild rural economies and the family farm system. In 1973 the funds were divvied up to the states and Nebraska received about 2.7 million dollars.

Since then the Ag Department has been spending only the interest from the funds, at least until the then-Ag Director George Beattie began spending some of the principal in 1990. If the department is going to work for family farmers, then we should be seeing some signs of it. But if it is only there to regulate, then the Rural Rehab money should be moved.

Reprinted from the Nebraska Farmers Union Newsletter.

Proud of "Contributions"

Abrams Guilty — Sandino Prophecy Fulfilled

Colman McCarthy

During his tenure in the Reagan State Department working on Latin America, Elliott Abrams operated on a policy that said supplying weapons to people reduces violence, deception leads to truth, warmaking is peacemaking, and torturing, raping and burning produce tranquillity.

Many State Department and Pentagon ideologues got away with that. Ronald Reagan himself did. Elliott Abrams did not. He faces a prison term for crimes he committed in 1986 when he tried to finesse his way through a pair of congressional hearings on who was supplying money and arms to the contras. Abrams, whose arrogant and contemptuous manner were well-suited to carry out policies that he decreed put U.S. interests first but placed Latin America's poor last,



ELLIOT ABRAMS

pleaded guilty earlier this month to withholding information from both the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Intelligence Committee. They sought to get the facts but Abrams supplied lies.

1986 was the glory year for U.S. meddling in Nicaragua. Abrams had a boss who went misty-eyed over the bankrolled jungle thugs who came to be called contras. They "are counterrevolutionary," said Reagan, "and God bless them for being that way. And I guess that makes them contras, and so it makes me a contra too." A year earlier Reagan had called his *companeros* "the morale equivalent of our Founding Fathers." He invited Abrams and such other rabids as Carl (Spitz) Channell into the White House to give pep talks to right-wing donors to fund the contras in their secret war against the Soviet Union's plot to turn Nicaragua into a "client state." Channell,

foreshadowing Abrams' crime, would eventually plead guilty to defrauding the government by raising contra money under the guise of a tax-exempt foundation.

The confrontational Abrams, with vast talents for intrigue, believed he was on a roll with his anti-Sandinista crusade. He preached that the contras were a mighty fighting force. Instead, they were military weaklings who preferred raping peasant women and burning villages to combat against the Sandinistas. In 1987, Robert McFarlane called the contra leaders "well-meaning Coca-Cola bottlers...who just cannot hack it on the battlefield."

Two books published this fall — "Comandos: the CIA and Nicaragua's Contra Rebels" by Sam Dillon and "Children of Cain: Violence and the Violent in Latin America" by Tina Rosenberg document the chaos.

On leaving U.S. District Court after pleading guilty, Abrams was predictably uncontrite. He opted for the pose of a braggart, announcing he was "proud" of his government service and "the contributions" he had made. As if to show that his passions for dishonesty re-

mained intact, Abrams said he was "very happy to have this entire matter behind me at long last."

In fact, the violence he orchestrated against Nicaraguans is not behind him. Children whose legs were blown off by contra land mines — U.S. made and supplied — continue to hobble the streets and fields of Nicaragua. Parents of sons and daughters killed by Abrams' contras still grieve. And Nicaraguans, a poor people who always wanted independence from the United States, the Soviet Union and any other outside powers whose aid came with conditions, now find themselves irrelevant to post-Cold War policies in Washington.

Whether or not Abrams ends up in prison, his fate and that of his fellow destroyers of Central America is likely to fulfill the prophecy of Nicaragua's patriot and hero, Augusto Cesar Sandino who wrote in 1928: "Each abuse of power hastens the destruction of him who exercises it."

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Bonacci, from page 1

time of his sentencing, but only a desire to see him get help. That is still the feeling of the mother of Bryan.

Next, the paper editorialized its opinion opposing Bonacci's parole. With no convincing support for the comparison, they likened the decision to parole Bonacci to the decision to parole Robert Fort, the convicted murderer now accused of another killing committed shortly after his parole. There is absolutely no reason to believe that any serious harm, certainly not a murder, would result from paroling Paul Bonacci. What is more ironic, however, is the Herald's unconvincing interest in

helping Bonacci:

"How would it help the troubled young man to release him into a setting where his delusional ramblings are encouraged, even accepted as fact?"

The fact is, that in prison Bonacci has not had one iota of therapy for a psychiatric problem that most people would consider devastating. His only hope for real care is outside the prison walls.

The LaRouche "Link" -- Again

Then, reaching back to news several months old, the editorialist reminded the readers of a

"connection" between Bonacci's supporters and followers of Lyndon LaRouche, who "have used his stories to keep a cynical fund-raising effort from collapsing. This fund-raising effort involves convincing gullible people that an elaborate network of satanists, child sexual abusers and killers of children for sacrifice operates in Nebraska." The last LaRouchians we know about left Nebraska last July. If there is a "cynical fund-raising effort" connected with Bonacci's supporters, one of them said to me, I sure hope I get my check soon.

Bonacci does have organized support from a year-and-a-half old group called the Nebraska Leadership Conference whose driving force is Ed Weaver, of Weaver Potato Chips. The group was organized to educate Nebraskans about child abuse, and later came to believe that satanism poses a real threat to children in the state.

"There is nothing cynical about our organization," said Weaver. "Our fund-raising effort is very minimal. We are constantly working to get enough money to pay for our activities such as publishing our book and distributing our newsletters. Our money comes from individual contributions. The organization has no overhead, no rented offices, no paid staff, no equipment. It's 100 percent volunteer. I provided some of the up-front money myself, several thousand dollars." The group unknowingly had some contact last fall with some LaRouchians, but later parted company because their agendas differed.

Negative reference to the group, however surfaces regularly in Dorr's coverage, with frequent suggestions of LaRouchian ties.

Again, apparently trying to raise opposition to Bonacci's parole The Herald followed their editorial with another article the following day. "Bonacci Hearing Is Called a Bit Unusual," read the headline for the story written by Bob Dorr. It turned out that no source cited in the article called the hearing unusual. Only the writer thought it was unusual. The reasons he cited, -- because further investigation was ordered to justify approving of a proposed release plan which differed from the usual policy of in-patient treatment, -- and because the parole board needed to get official word that a detainer in Bonacci's file had been removed and not just rely on the World-Herald for the information, -- failed to convince anyone I talked to, including Parole Board member Marlene Cupp, that there was anything unusual.

Letter From Bonacci's Mother

The Observer has received a letter from Marilyn McCoy, mother of Paul Bonacci. Space does not permit us to print the entire letter, but following are some highlights.

On the occasion of Paul's being granted parole, Mrs. McCoy expressed her gratitude to the many people who had shown loving support for her son Paul. She appreciates their prayers and keeps them in hers.

Some of the things she remembered about Paul were that

he "was also very active in youth activities in Church, which was why he was able to be away from home an awful lot.

It wasn't until April of 1986 that we learned of any abuse. NPI would only tell me that he was repeatedly abused by more than one person, and they would not tell me who they were, only that it was not a member of the family."

As to how to know when a child has been

abused, "First, we were middle income so please be advised this could happen to anyone's child. We moved a lot to all area's of Omaha. I remember at around age 8 or 9 Paul had a lot of stomach problems, was a very nervous child. He got beat up a lot even had his knuckles broken at around age 13. He stayed by himself a lot in his room, was very moody at times. He seemed to forget things and remember a couple days later. But mostly Paul was a very caring, respectful and gentle person."

Paul's family "worried about him a lot, but could not get him to talk about it...some children never tell of abuse, some do later in life."

McCoy recalled with gratitude the work of Legislative Investigator Gary Caradori, "one of the most loving and caring men I have ever met," and promised that "his death and the death of his son Andrew will not be in vain."

Ritualistic Sex Abuse
in the Midwest

Nebraska Leadership Conference

November 23, 1:30

Speaker,
Ted Gunderson

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What Do the Simple Folk Do?

Cox's "Do-It-Yourself" TV Is Not For the Masses



by Warrior Richardson

The author has attempted to use Cox Cable's Public Access services since November, 1990. The process generated enough dissatisfaction for him that he has offered to write a column for the Observer which we have entitled "Cox Watch." Cox, in spite of the efforts of a small group of citizens that included Richardson, won an extension of its franchise until 2010 last month. In the opinion of this newspaper, that city council decision makes the following column especially necessary.

In response to many difficulties with what was supposed to be the public's means of access to tv, several Public Access users, including myself, have begun the process of starting an Omaha chapter of the National Federation of Local Cable Programmers. We meet once a month, next time on November 23, 11:30 a.m. at the South Omaha Library, 2302 M St., Omaha. If anyone wants more information about this organization, they can reach me at (402) 457-5026.

Here are some of the problems I have run into while trying to do what Cox calls "Do It Yourself Television" (see box). The process actually is far from simple, but with the "help" of Cox, only a rocket scientist has a chance of producing a quality show.

First were the technical obstacles at the Public Access facilities. For example, the character generator knob was broken and still is almost a year later.

On another occasion, I tried to get a copy of my show and had to pay \$7.50 per half hour.

Another time, I took a workshop on the use of the Public Access portable equipment. Unfortunately, the equipment was inoperable and the workshop was never completed.

One day I went to do my show and the door was locked. I had to wait until the next day just to talk to someone who could unlock the door. Later, I came to do another show, and one of the tape decks was "out for repair." Strangely enough, when it was back from being repaired it worked just as badly as it did before it went out.

Live Broadcasts Prohibited

Then there was the frustration of being forbidden to do live telecasts. I wrote to Sen.

J. J. Exon about this. Sen. Exon contacted Cox Cable on my behalf, and Michael Kohler responded with the following statement:

"We feel very strongly that permitting programs to air without review would not be consistent with our position as steward of these community resources. One of our roles, and one we take seriously, is assuring that program content is acceptable for general viewing audiences, and live telecasts would remove that oversight mechanism."

Consequently, I sent a letter to Walt Nabity, Chair of the Cable Television Advisory Committee. I asked him if it is legal to deny live telecast to Public Access users for the above stated reason. I pointed out that it is particularly interesting that Michael Kohler would make such a statement in light of the letter Senator Exon received from Roy J. Stewart of the FCC. Included in Mr. Stewart's enclosure was section 611(e) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 (47 U.S.C. Section 531) which states,

"Subject to section 624(d), a cable operator shall not exercise any editorial control over any public, educational, or government use of channel capacity provided pursuant to this section."

I pointed out that I was under the impression that it was this act, which was cited in *Missouri Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, et al. v. Kansas City, Missouri*, that allowed the controversial and now well known show "Race and Reason" to be aired on cable TV. Yet Michael Kohler asserts that it is Cox Cable's responsibility to review program content and

**One day I went
to do my show and
the door was
locked. I had to
wait until the next
day just to talk to
someone who
could unlock the
door**

activate oversight mechanisms. Naturally, I asked is this not tantamount to editorial control? Furthermore, the Public Access handbook contains a list of program topics and contents that are not allowed on the Public Access channel. I pointed out that this stipulation from the handbook, plus Michael

Kohler's rationale for denying live telecasts on the Public Access channel raises questions about independent rights under federal cable law and civil rights laws. Censorship is the issue here. I believe citizens can sue Cox for this. Any attorneys out there interested in working on this as a class action case?

Surprisingly enough, Assistant City Attorney Thomas O. Mumgaard actually said Cox could legally prohibit live telecasts by Public Access users.

This may be legal, but it is still unreasonable. What if someone wanted to film a live classical concert, a recital, an athletic event, a church service? Where is the logic in total denial of live telecast because of some alleged fear of offensive material? Reginald Carter of the National Federation of Local Cable Programmers (NFLCP) pointed out to me that in one city the demand from churches for live telecast on Public Access is so great that an entire channel is dedicated exclusively for live broadcasts for churches — not so in Omaha. This is all denied because Omaha Public Access channel viewers must be protected from potentially offensive material — Curious solution. Reginald Carter also points out that in both Spokane, Washington, and Santa Barbara, California, Cox Cable allows live telecast to Public Access users. Apparently this problem doesn't exist there.

Another curious restriction imposed by Cox on Public Access users is the following:

"You will be allotted approximately forty (40:00) to forty-five (45:00) minutes to complete one thirty (30:00) minute program. This ratio of completed programs to studio time allotted is the minimum standard and must be adhered to proportionately when greater blocks of studio time are requested."

Both I and Richard Hudlin, another frequent user of the Public Access facilities, have been in communication with Michael Kohler

concerning this matter. I am totally baffled by the imposition of this constraint. As Michael Kohler mentioned in a letter to me, "Many hours are available in the existing [Public Access] sites," and in a letter to Richard Hudlin he states the following:

"Regarding the time frames allotted for public access production, those times are set as guidelines — not rigid rules — based on historical data gathered over ten years of administering public access. We have found that easily more than 99 percent of our public access users have found the time guidelines to be workable and satisfactory. However, we are willing to consider flexibility on a case-by-case basis, including re-examining your requests."

If many hours are available, and more than 99 percent of the Public Access users are satisfied with these time frames, leaving less than one percent who desire more time, what is the point of the time constraint? What is the problem? I see no problem other than the time constraint itself. If less than one percent of the Public Access users want more time and the time is available, I see no reason whatsoever not to give it to them without hesitation or hassle. I am perplexed.

Also, Cox refuses to allow Public Access users to copy 1/2" videotape material (home video tape) onto 3/4" videotape material (studio quality tape) and vice versa in the studio. Few ordinary citizens have the equipment that can use 3/4" material; the effect on people like me is that we are not allowed to use any material that we cannot produce within their time constraints. Besides, this prohibits splicing in material, say a speech or a live performance. The result is that the Public Access journalist is severely handicapped.

Another benefit of allowing us to copy from 3/4" to 1/2" is that we could make our

Continued on next page

What Public Access Is Supposed to Be Like

The following is taken from Cox's Public Access Handbook

--Public Access is "Do It Yourself Television" available at no charge to Omaha-area groups or individuals. It is specifically for those who have a story to tell and want to share it with Cox Cable's viewers.

--Public Access offers basic instructional workshops in all phases of television production, and you can see your finished product in the comfort of your own home on Cox Cable.

--Public Access provides fully-

equipped studio facilities.

--Public Access has portable video equipment for production outside the studio.

--Public Access is staffed with knowledgeable and friendly professionals who will guide you step-by-step to successful productions.

--Public Access has a cable television channel reserved specifically for your programs.

--Most importantly, Public Access is free! There is absolutely no cost for training, use of equipment, facilities or air-time.

Open Letter to Pope

Voluntary Family Planning Best Protection Againsts Abortion

Your Holiness,

On this World Population Day there are many concerns which unite men and women of good will. People of all faiths recognize the need to renew the Earth as what Father Thomas Berry has called "a bio-spiritual planet."

Most agree, as the Brundtland Commission on Environment and Development did, that rapidly increasing human numbers allied to our consumption habits and damaging technologies, are creating an inter-linked crisis which threatens any sustainable future for Man on Earth.

The Catholic Church has helped to add a human and a spiritual dimension to the debate on these issues. The church has rightly stressed the need for economic justice in and between nations, it has supported human rights in many settings, it has sided with the poor and campaigned for transitions to democracy. It has joined in efforts to alleviate the load on those afflicted by disaster and denied their social rights. Above all, perhaps, it has attributed value to individual human beings in an inhuman era.

For forty years the International Planned Parenthood Federation has stood for similar values. Its driving force has been concern for the health and welfare of women, their children and their families. It has sought to empower women to make choices about their reproductive and productive lives and to make such choices available to the poor and neglected in the villages and shanty towns of the developing world as well as to those in countries such as Romania where choice was for so long forbidden by a heartless state.

It is sad therefore that in this one aspect of human rights and human development, the

contemporary Catholic Church has chosen to be an obstacle rather than an ally; the opposition of the Church to contraception (other than periodic abstinence) and the vehemence with which this opposition has been expressed, unfortunately overshadow so much on which we can agree.

Recent statements attributed to the Catholic Church likening legal abortion to the Nazi holocaust and claiming that the Pill and other forms of contraception have not liberated women but enslaved them, show the deepest misunderstanding of the family planning movement.

One of the saddest tragedies of our times, I believe, is the hidden sorrow and suffering of women afflicted by unplanned pregnancies. Half a million women every year die from causes related to pregnancy — five million

every decade. Millions more live lives blighted by chronic anemia and ill health.

Ninety-nine percent of all women who die in this way come from the world's poorest regions, with the world's highest population growth. Yet the causes are largely preventable. Low cost, effective contraception used by women who do not want further children could, by itself, reduce maternal deaths dramatically.

Within the next half century humankind must, I am sure, complete the demographic transition to a world where the small family is the norm, in India as well as Italy. It will mean that women will have a choice about childbearing, and wanted children will survive to live fulfilling lives.

On this significant day, I humbly suggest that a sensitive dialogue should be opened

between the Church and those who believe as I do that voluntary family planning is the best protection against abortion, as well as a major contributor to saving women's lives and a human right. Such a dialogue would, I believe, help women and men make good moral decisions, which benefit their children, their families and the world.

Your Obedient Servant,

Dr. Fred Sai

President

International Planned Parenthood

Federation

Editor's note: A U.S. bishop who is a member of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities said he considered the letter "a public-relations effort" on the part of the federation

READER RESPONDS

A Pro-Life Position on Teen Pregnancy

Dear Editor,

Your article, "Dr. Elders fights Teen Pregnancy in Arkansas", should give the "Right to Life" or "Pro-Life" position even and equal time. So here goes.

First of all — God created the World and all the human race. The Bible quotes in detail all throughout the Old and New Testament that human life is sacred. Now we know for thousands of years it is the most read and respected book. Our country was founded on Freedom of Religion not Freedom from Religion. Before we seem so righteous about what should or should not be done, let's read and study the Good Book that has more wisdom than all

other books put together.

Now, let's say, as I'm sure some will, "I don't believe in God or the Bible." That is the real problem, because if you did read, study and follow the laws of God, they are all in there. Now because we don't believe in a God and we are the "gods", we have Nature taking its course. You see, God gave us a "free will" and He lets us use it. Since we do not follow His laws, Nature and we sinners are suffering. Sin and pleasure and if-it-feels-good-do-anything is the name of the game. Our TV porn, cable porn, radio porn, satellite porn, movie porn, hotel porn, computer porn, magazine porn, mail porn, music porn, video porn, dial-a-porn are leaders of immorality. We have not stayed with the Good Book, the commandments, the church laws. We have made our own laws and abortion is the worst of all sins: killing our own progeny. Now we have sunk so low we will next have legal suicide. We have left God out and are now doing our own thing.

God loves you as much as me and He wants everyone in heaven. All we need to do is let God lead us, we have lost our way. Read and study the Bible.

Mothers and fathers need the training. *Only parents* have the obligation to teach their children from little on that the marriage act is for married people, and married love includes respect and responsibility. The marriage act creates babies. So only love, respect and responsibility are the ingredients necessary to change our world to the way our world was intended to be.

Sin will always be with us, but we do know without God, Nature is a cruel teacher. If we don't follow the direction it was created for, we will continue to fail our young and old.

Abstinence during the fertile time is the natural way for family planning. We have no excuse but to try to do it God's way.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Mark Schmidt
Hartington, NE

Lincoln Bishop Rejects Artificial Birth Control

Catholic physicians who prescribe contraceptives or recommend their use engage in "gravely sinful" cooperation with those who are violating divine law, Lincoln Bishop Glennon Flavin said recently.

In a recent pastoral letter, he urged Catholic doctors to dissuade their patients from "the practice of sinful contraception" and to introduce them to natural family planning, a church-approved process of monitoring a woman's cycle to regulate pregnancy.

He also emphasized that Catholics who practice artificial birth control "and those who cooperate with them in their immoral actions may not receive Holy Communion without committing sacrilege."

—National Catholic Reporter

Continued from previous page

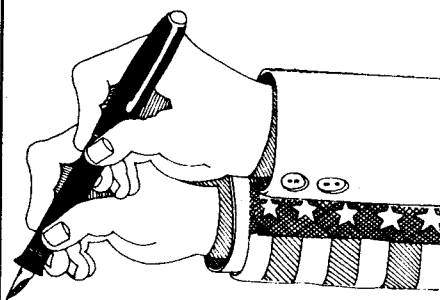
own copies of our shows instead of paying Cox \$7.50 per half hour. Michael Kohler stated that he "will be happy to consider the potential viability [of adding the device needed to make such a procedure acceptable to their standards] for a future budget period," and in the next paragraph promised a response "within 14 days." As I write this, 23 days later, there has been no response.

As television continues to affect our lives more profoundly, the idea of "Public Access" becomes increasingly important to a democratic society. But Cox has imposed so many hurdles it is actually suppressing Public Access; it then has the audacity to argue that because of low demand, Public Access should be eliminated. With friends like this who needs enemies?

A person who procures a successful abortion incurs an automatic excommunication."

Canon 1398,
Code of Canon Law (Roman Catholic)

Over a period of a lifetime 46 percent of all women will have at least one abortion. The percentage is slightly higher among Catholics.
Guttmacher Institute



Nebraska Delegation

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Sen. J.J. Exon
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 (402) 437-5591 (Lincoln)
 (402) 341-1776 (Omaha)
 (308) 632-3595 (Scottsbluff)

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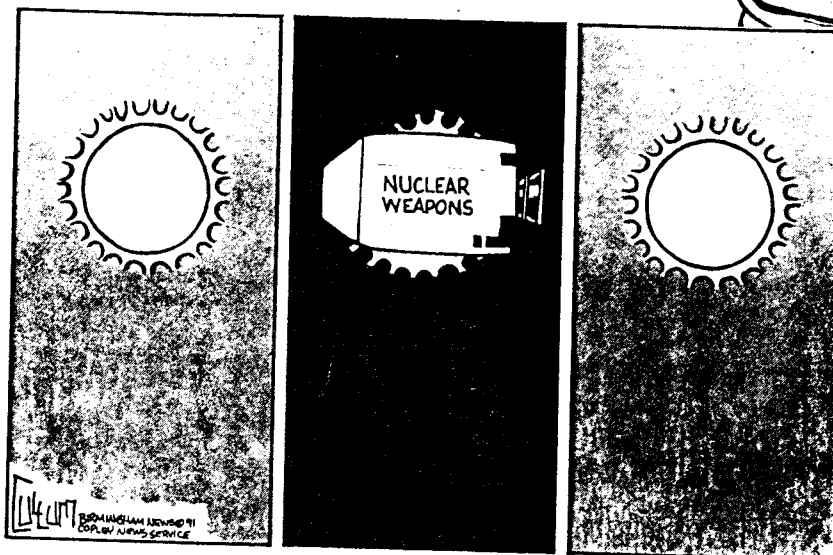
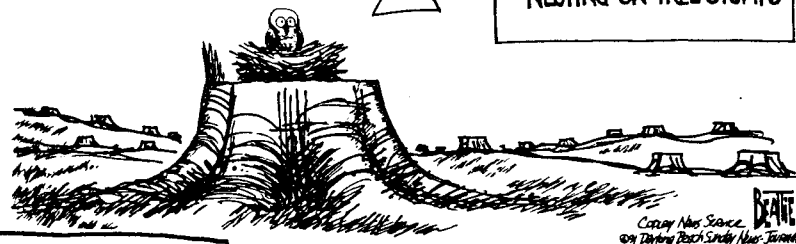
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Artists' Cooperative Gallery

405 S. 11th St., Omaha.

342-9617

Hours: Wed. & Thurs. 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sun. noon-5 p.m..

Bellevue College Gallery

Galvin Rd. at Harvell Dr., Bellevue.

292-3732

Hours: 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat.; 1-5 p.m. Sun.

Bemis New Gallery

614 S. 11th, Omaha.

341-7130

Hours: 11 a.m. -5 p.m. daily, including weekends.

Sat., Nov. 9th-Bemis Birthday Party Benefit and Auction. Tickets: \$50.**Sat. Nov. 30th, 7-10 p.m.:** Opening reception for David Simpson, celebrated minimalist painter. This exhibition will run through Jan. 5th, 1992.**Bemis Lecture Series, Nov. 14th, 7 p.m.:** Kathleen Kucka and Wojcieck. This series consists of informal slide talks, mostly by artists-in-residence, but the series has been expanded this season to include local experts in the arts & sciences. They are presented one Thursday each month at 7 p.m.**Burkholder Project**

719 "P" St., Lincoln.

477-3305

Hours: 10-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat.

Cathedral Arts Project

St. Cecilia's Cathedral, 701 N. 40th St., Omaha.

558-3100

Hours: 1-3:30 p.m. Thurs.-Sun. and by appointment.

Council Bluffs Artists' Loft

407 W. Broadway, Council Bluffs.

Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; noon-4 p.m. Sat.

Creighton Fine Arts Gallery

Creighton University

27th and California, Omaha.

280-2509

Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Sat.; noon-4 p.m. Sun.

Through Nov. 17th-Malcolm Christhilf. Opening reception free, 7-9:30 p.m.**Eyesound Gallery**

109 N. 50th, Omaha.

553-4432

Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat.

Franklin St. Gallery

2223 Franklin St.

Fiber Compositions Show. **Sunday, Oct. 13th, noon-4 p.m.****Gallery 72**

2709 Leavenworth, Omaha.

345-3347

Garden of the Zodiac

Old Market Passageway, 1042 Howard, Omaha.

341-1877.

Haydon Gallery

335 N. 8th, Hardy Building, Lincoln.

475-5421

Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Sat.

Haymarket Art Gallery

119 S. 9th St., Lincoln.

475-1061

Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tues.-Sat.

Hillmer Art Gallery

College of St. Mary, 1901 S. 72nd St., Omaha.

399-2621

Hours: 1 p.m.-5 p.m. daily, except Fri.

Iowa Western Community College Fine Arts Gallery

2700 College Rd. Council Bluffs.

325-3352

Jewish Community Center

333 S. 132nd St., Omaha.

334-8200

Hours: 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.; 8a.m.-5 p.m. Fri.; 1 p.m.-7 p.m. Sat.; 1 p.m.-7 p.m. Sun.

Joslyn Art Museum

2200 Dodge, Omaha.

342-3300

Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tues. & Wed., Fri. & Sat.; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Thurs.; 1 p.m.-7 p.m. Sun.

Through Nov. 10th-The Landscape in Twentieth-Century American Art: Selec-

tions from the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Through Nov. 17th-Painting by the Rules: Academic Paintings from the Permanent Collection.**Through Dec. 1st-American Indian Potraits** by F.A. Rinehart.**Nov. 21st through May 24th-John David Brcin, sculptor.****Nov. 23rd through Jan. 19th-Kratky Film:** The Art of Czechoslovakian Animation.**Local Artists' Exchange**

Standard Blue, 1415 Harney, Omaha.

Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; noon-4 p.m. Sat. & Sun.

Metro Arts Artspace

601 S. 16th St., Omaha.

341-7910

Hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. or by appointment.

Museum of Nebraska Art

24th & Central Ave., Kearney.

(308) 234-8559

Hours: 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Tues.-Sat.

Through Nov. 15th-University of Nebraska at Kearney Faculty Show.**Nov. 17th-Jan. 5th-Terence Duren: A Retrospective Exhibition.****Passageway Gallery**

417 S. 11th St. Omaha.

341-1910

Hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Wed.; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Thurs.; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri. & Sat.; or by appointment anytime.

Photographer's Gallery, Inc.

4831 Dodge St., Omaha.

551-5731

Hours: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Sun.; closed Sat.; or by appointment anytime.

Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery

12th & "R" Sts, UNL Campus, Lincoln.

472-2461

Hours: Tues. & Wed. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun. 2 p.m.-9 p.m.; Thurs.-Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Mon.

Through Nov. 17th-One of a Kind: Polaroids by Kent Klima.**Through Nov. 24th-A Photographic Itinerary:** Recent Works by George Tuck.**Through Dec. 1st-Off the Wall.****Nov. 26th through Feb. 23rd-Sheldon Solo:** Michael Heizer.**Threlkeld Art Studio**

324 South 68th St., Omaha.

556-2256.

13th St. Gallery

1264 S. 13th St., Omaha.

Hours: 1 p.m.-5p.m. Fri., Sat., & Sun.

Sioux City Art Center

513 Nebraska St., Sioux City, Iowa.

University of Nebraska at Omaha Gallery

616 S. 11th St. (2nd floor in CAT Bldng.)

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Other Midwest Gallery Listings**Art Institute of Chicago**

Michigan at Adams St., Chicago, Illinois.

(312) 443-3600

Hours: 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mon., Wed. & Fri.; 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Tues.; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat.; noon-5 p.m. Sun.

Admission: \$5, seniors & students \$2.50.

Des Moines Art Center

4700 Grand Ave., Des Moines, Iowa.

(515) 277-4405

Hours: 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tues., Wed., Fri., & Sat.; 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Thurs.; noon-5 p.m. Sun.; closed Mon.

Through Nov. 10th-Outrage and Sympathy: Artists on Injustice.**Gallery 306**

102 S. Dakota Ave., Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Nelson Atkins Museum of Art

4525 Oak St., Kansas City, Missouri.

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The Peace Museum

430 W. Erie, Chicago, Illinois 60610

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Due to the rising costs of operating the gallery, the space has been closed. To support the nation's first museum dedicated to providing peace education through the arts and humanities, please send contributions to the above address. If fund-raising is successful, they will be able to celebrate their 10th birthday this fall with a grand re-opening.

The Witter Gallery

609 Cayuga St., Storm Lake, Iowa. 50588

a r e a e v e n t s

DIRECTORY OF VENUES:

Ballet Omaha, performs at the Orpheum Theatre, 346-7332.

Bellevue Little Theater, 203 W. Mission Ave., 291-1554.

Bemis Foundation/New Gallery, 614 S. 11th St., 341-7130. Open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.

Blue Barn Theater, 1258 S. 13th St., 345-1576.

Center Stage, 30th & "Q" Sts., 733-5777.

Chanticleer Theater, 830 Franklin Ave., Council Bluffs, (712) 323-9955.

Circle Theater, 6064 Maple St., 553-4715.

Civic Auditorium, 18th & Capitol, 444-4750.

Creighton University, Performing Arts Center, 30th & Burt Sts.; Art Gallery, 27th & California Sts., 280-2509.

Emmy Gifford Children's Theater, 3504 Center St., 345-4849.

Firehouse Dinner and Theater, 11th & Jackson Sts, 346-8833.

Grande Olde Players, 701 S. 39th St., 345-2462.

Henry Doorly Zoo, 10th & Deer Park Ave., 733-8400.

Howard St. Tavern, 1112 Howard St, Old Market, 341-0433

Joslyn Art Museum, 2200 Dodge St., 342-3300.

Lied Center for the Performing Arts, Lincoln, NE. Call (402) 472-4747 in Lincoln or (800) 432-3231 throughout Nebraska for ticket info.

Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater, Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, 12th & "R" Sts., Lincoln. 472-5353.

Magic Theater, 1417 Farnam St., 346-1227.

New Cinema, 1514 Davenport St., 346-8033. Film screenings most weekdays at 5:20, 7:30 & 9:40 Fri. & Sat.; Sun. at 3 p.m.

Omaha Civic Auditorium, 18th & Capitol, 444-4750.

Omaha Children's Museum, 500 S. 20th, 342-6164. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tues.-Sat.; 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Sun.

Omaha Community Playhouse, 69th & Cass Sts., 553-0800.

Omaha Symphony Orchestra, see listings for venues, 342-3560

Omaha Workshop Theater, 3419 "L" St. 558-2953. Shows Fri. & Sat. at 8 p.m.

Opera /Omaha, performs at Orpheum Theater, 346-0357.

Orpheum Theater, 409 S. 16th St., 444-4750.

Rosenblatt Stadium, 13th & Bert Murphy Dr., 734-5271.

Strauss Performing Arts Center, on the UNO campus, 63rd & Dodge.

Sunset Speedway, 114th & State, 493-5271.

Upstairs Dinner Theater, 221 S. 19th St., 344-7777.

Wesley House, African Community Theater, 2001 N. 35th St.

Western Heritage Museum, 801 S. 10th St., 444-5071.

SPECIAL EVENTS

V.V.A. Chapter #146 General Membership Meetings, 2nd Tues. each month at the V.F.W. Post, 33rd & Leavenworth. Call Tom at 453-2568 for more info.

Bisexual Support Group meets 1st Mon. of each month, 7 p.m. at the Cornerstone, in the upstairs conference room, 640 N. 16th St., Lincoln.

Mon., Nov. 4th-Ted Kooser, an insurance executive and an esteemed Lincoln poet, reads at 7:30 p.m. in the Dodge Room of the Milo Bail Student Center, U.N.O. General admission is \$3.00, \$1.00 for students.

Mon., Nov. 18th-Josip Novakovich, former Nebraskan and native Yugoslavian author, reads at 7:30 p.m. in the Arts & Sciences Hall, Room 228, U.N.O. General Admission is \$3.00, \$1.00 for students.

ENVIRONMENT, PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Earth Day Committee meets every Tues. at Willa Cather Branch Library, 44th & Center, 6:30 p.m.

Ecology Now meets every Sun in Elmwood Park at 4 p.m.

Youth for Peace meets every Wed., 6 p.m., upstairs at the Antiquarium, 1215 Harney.

CLEAN (Citizens Leading Environmental Action Nebraska) meets 1st Thurs. each month at Dorothy Lanphier's, 5302 Izard, 554-1108.

No-Name Recycling Group meets every Sat., 10 a.m.-noon at the First Presbyterian Church, 216 S. 34th St. (34th & Farnam). The Nov. 3rd meeting, however, will not be held at the church. Location to be announced. Contact Patricia Dugaw: 345-2206.

Ongoing: Nebraskans for Peace Health Care Signature Campaign. Call 453-0776 for more info.

Habitat for Humanity Site Work Opportunities: If you can work, call the office, 457-5657, to find the location of any Tuesday (9-3), Saturday, (9-3) or Thursday (5-8:30) workday. Please schedule ahead if you have a group. One big need now is for skilled leaders and for groups who will gain experience through repeated workdays.

Nov. 1st-"Linking Nebraska Agriculture, Trade and Third World Development."

Workshop sponsored by the Rural Joint Strategy and Action Team 9:30 a.m.- 3 p.m., Lincoln.

Nov. 3rd-"Linking Nebraska Agriculture, Trade and Third World Development." Workshop sponsored by the Rural Joint Strategy and Action Team 3:30 p.m.- 9 p.m., Lincoln.

Nov. 17, Sunday "Canada's National Health Program: A Model for the U.S.?" Film and discussion led by Kate Brown. Swanson Library, 90 and Dodge, 3:00 p.m. Sponsored by Omaha Friends Meeting. Free.

EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS

Through Jan. 12th-Omaha Children's Museum exhibit: Dinamations Real Sea Monsters-"Dinosaurs" of the Deep. An exhibit of giant, robotic, prehistoric sea creatures that will appear to swim and dive in a magical environment that will delight visitors of all ages.

Through Nov. 10. Anne Frank in the World. Joslyn Castle, 3902 Davenport, Omaha. Free. 333-1308. An exhibit about Anne Frank and the Holocaust.

FILM

Mary Riepma Ross Film Theater, Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery, Lincoln.

Tues., Oct. 29th through Sun., Nov. 3rd -Claire Trevor Film Festival. Complete schedules and synopses available at box office.

Thurs., Nov. 7th through Sun., Nov. 10th-"An Angel at My Table," directed by Jane Campion. Screenings at 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. Matinees on Sat. at 12 noon and 3 p.m. and on Sun. at 1 and 4 p.m.

Nov. 16th and Nov. 17th-"Dark Weekend," directed by Terry Gilliam.

Screenings Nov. 16th at 12:30 and 9 p.m. and Nov. 17th at 4:30 and 9 p.m. Also playing on Nov. 16th at 3:15 and 7 p.m. and on Nov. 17th at 4:30 and 9 p.m. is "Baxter," directed by Jerome Boivin.

Thurs., Nov. 21st through Sat., Nov. 23rd and Fri., Nov. 29th through Sun., Dec. 1st-"The Comfort of Strangers," directed by Paul Schrader plus a short, "Rehearsals for Extinct Anatomies," directed by Brothers Quay. Screenings at 7 and 9:15 p.m. Matinees on Sat. at 12:45 and 3 p.m. and on Sun. at 2:30 and 4:45 p.m.

Nov. 24th-"Tong Tana," directed by a Swedish documentary team. Screenings at 3,5,7, and 9 p.m.

U.N.O. Fall Film Series. All films except the "Bad Film Festival" will be shown in Eppeley Auditorium, U.N.O.

Nov. 9th-THE BAD FILM FESTIVAL, 7 p.m. to 3 p.m. A masochistic moviegoer's dream come true! Five of the most inept films in history including a Edward D. Wood-Bela Lugosi triple feature, shown

back to back in an eight-hour celebration of the pitiful cinema. The evening's offerings: "Attack of the Mushroom People," "Bride of the Monster," "Plan Nine from Outer Space," "Glen or Glenda," and "Myra Breckenridge."

Nov. 22nd through Nov. 24th-"Viridiana," directed by Luis Bunuel. Screenings at 7 p.m. Fri., Sat., and Sun. Also the 22nd through the 24th at 9 p.m., "Un Chien Andalou" and "L'Age D'or" created by Luis Bunuel and Salvador Dali.

MUSIC & DANCE

The Coffee House Series continues this fall at the Blue Barn Theater. Every Mon. at 8 p.m. the series features original material by local acoustic artists. Bring your own coffee cup. Call 345-1576 for more info.

"New Music Tuesdays." Most Tues. nights the Howard Street Tavern features alternative music from local and national acts.

Every Sun. 6-9 p.m.-Omaha International Folk Dancers. Grace Lutheran Church, 26th & Woolworth. Beginners welcome.

Nov. 2 Contra Dance, St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 84 and Pacific, Omaha. \$2.50 per person. Eric Manley, caller, with Dave Brinkman and the Rivertown String Band. 7 to 10 p.m.

Nov. 8th-Winton Marsalis, Lied Center, Lincoln. Sold Out.

THEATER

Omaha Community Playhouse

Through Nov. 10th-"On Borrowed Time."

Nov. 22nd through Dec. 22nd-"A Christmas Carol"

Fonda-McGuire Series at the Playhouse

Nov. 1st through Dec. 8th-"A Funny Thing Happened to Me On the Way to the Forum"

Emmy Gifford Children's Theater

Through Nov. 17th-"Hansel and Gretel"

Opening Nov. 29th-"Charlie and the Chocolate Factory"

Firehouse Dinner Theater

Nov. 6th through Jan. 5th-"I Do, I Do"

Chanticleer Theater

Nov. 22nd through Dec. 23rd-"Tilly's Holiday Extravaganza"

Blue Barn Theater

Opening Nov. 29th-"Orphans"

Magic Theater

"Sound Fields-Or Are You Hear?" Call for scheduled dates.

Bellevue Little Theater

Nov. 15th through 24th-"Little Women"

Grande Olde Players

Nov. 29th through Dec. 22nd-"On the Air"

Omaha Workshop Theater

"Old" and "Spigot Frog Pedestrian Hootenanny" Call for scheduled dates.

A Reject From the Public Pulse

Observer reader Stephen Horn sent the following correspondence:

To us:

Dear Editor,

Enclosed is a letter sent to G. Woodson Howe concerning a television news story that claimed over-cutting of timber *within* our National Forest System. His rather remarkable reply is also enclosed.

The same day I sent the allegedly "Public" Pulse a shorter version also enclosed. In keeping with their idea of a "free press" they did not publish it.

I am confident the story I saw could not be classified as "gossipy", "anonymous-sourced" or irresponsible. Furthermore the Herald has the sources to find out the truth. I rather doubt they are at all interested in doing that.

Sincerely,
Stephen P. Horn

To the World-Herald:

G. Woodson Howe
Chief Editor
Omaha World Herald
Dear Mr. Howe:

Last week a national TV news program had quite a lengthy story on overcutting of timber *within* our National Parks. An extensive report by the Park Service had been changed significantly to downplay the serious concern by members of our Park service. Indeed the story went on to point to pressure from high administration sources requiring a rewriting of the report in a much toned down version. Several employees were transferred or otherwise silenced in the effort to keep this from the public view.

I have searched your paper carefully for some story on this. Is it possible I missed your coverage of this news story? Or is this another case of "managed news" to protect the timber industry?

Kind of like the Herald's failure to report the drug running that was pretty well acknowledged during the illegal supply of the Contras. (Guns down and drugs back.) See previous letter from me in your "file".

Sincerely,
Stephen P. Horn

Horn submitted a shorter version for publication

From the World-Herald

Dear Mr. Horn:

Television news reports don't set our agenda. We have nothing but contempt for most network television news, don't watch them and don't feel we have to hustle to match any gossipy, anonymous-sourced based story they broadcast.

If you can show me a responsible newspaper that carried an Associated Press story of considerable significance and obvious newsworthiness that we didn't carry in your edition, then we might have something to discuss.

Sincerely,
G. Woodson Howe

MY MISSION IN LIFE

1 TO AFFLICT THE COMFORTABLE
as publisher of the Nebraska Observer.

2 TO COMFORT THE AFFLICTED
as Frances Mendenhall, D.D.S.

*If your teeth are in need of comforting,
please call for an appointment.*



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Same Phone
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